

PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

James Costos, U.S. Ambassador Designate to Spain and Andorra, arrives in Madrid

James Costos arrived in Madrid to take up his duties as the new U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra. He was accompanied by his partner, Michael S. Smith. Deputy Chief of Mission, Luis G. Moreno, and senior officials of the U.S. Embassy in Spain received Ambassador Designate Costos and Mr. Smith at Madrid's Barajas Airport.

On Monday, September 16, 2013, Ambassador Designate James Costos is expected to deliver the Copies of the Letters of Credence to the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and meet the Foreign Affairs Minister, José Manuel García-Margallo, right after. He will then assume his duties as the chief American diplomat of the U.S. Mission to Spain, which includes the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and the U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona. At a later date, Ambassador Costos will present his Letters of Credence to H.M. the King of Spain, as well as conduct a similar process in Andorra.

Ambassador Designate James Costos comes to his new position from an international business career, and most recently served as Vice President of Global Licensing and Retail for Home Box Office (HBO). For a complete biography, visit the U.S. Embassy's website.

Additional resources on Ambassador Designate James Costos:

Official biography and photograph: <http://goo.gl/qP0onT>

Videographic Series, The Road to Serrano, 75: <http://goo.gl/sP8WSl>

Swearing-In Statement: <http://goo.gl/157cDq>

Senate Foreign Relations testimony: <http://1.usa.gov/139yt1G>

Senate Foreign Relations testimony video: <http://1.usa.gov/17oLxNX>

Madrid September 13, 2013



<http://madrid.usembassy.gov>



@USembassyMadrid



Madrid.USembassy



USembassyMadrid



James Costos

Ambassador Designate to the Kingdom of Spain and Principality of Andorra

James Costos was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and Principality of Andorra on August 1, 2013, and sworn in on August 22, 2013.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Costos was Vice President of Global Licensing and Retail for Home Box Office. In this capacity, he was responsible for leading HBO's newly created global licensing, retail, and marketing division which he established to further expand HBO's domestic and international interests.

Ambassador Costos began his career as a fashion and retail executive in New York City, including as Vice President of Retail Operation for TOD'S and Vice President of Retail Operations for Hermes of Paris. He then took on the role of Head of Promotions and Consumer Products at Revolution Studios, a start-up production company. Before joining HBO, he was President and CEO of the entertainment marketing and licensing agency Eight Cylinders, Inc.

In addition to his responsibilities as Vice President for HBO, Ambassador Costos also serves on the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of the United States, the country's largest animal protection organization. He is also a passionate supporter of several cultural and humanitarian organizations, including the Santa Monica Museum of Art and the Human Rights Campaign.

Ambassador Costos earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts in 1985. He is a resident of Los Angeles, California where he resides with his partner of 14 years, Michael S. Smith.



<http://madrid.usembassy.gov>



@USEmbassyMadrid



Madrid.USEmbassy



USEmbassyMadrid